

REMARKS

In the January 27, 2005, Office Action, Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,868,311, to Cretu-Petra.

Applicants have amended Claims 1-7 to better define the present invention over the art cited by the Examiner, and have added new Claims 8-20.

Applicants' invention is an electronically controlled valve assembly which includes a replaceable valve cartridge including a valve which is operated by a motor that is coupled to the valve cartridge to control movement of the valve in response to an electronic control signal. Prior to applicants' invention, motor-driven valves which incorporated easily replaceable valve cartridges were believed to be unknown in the art, particularly in the combinations now claimed in Applicants claims as amended.

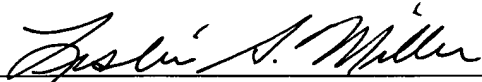
Each of independent Claims 1, 4, and 5 is believed to patentably define the present invention over the reference cited by the Examiner in the January 27, 2005, Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully believe that each of dependent Claims 1, 4, and 5 patentably define the present invention over the cited references, and request favorable consideration and allowance of these claims as well as the claims which are dependent upon these claims.

Accordingly, Claims 1-20 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner

believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

BY



Leslie S. Miller
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,662

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.
1000 North Water Street, Suite 2100
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 298-8321

Customer No. 22922

MW/1192082